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COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME: COORDINATED FOLLOW-UP BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Statement submitted by the International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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The International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres, (IFS) is an international social service organization. It is a federation of over 4,500 member organizations with constituents (from individual settlements, local federations of neighbourhood centres and national federations) operating in 25 countries. Its range of activities includes community development projects; networking and partnerships; providing, monitoring and evaluating service programmes dealing with children, youth, the ageing, women, the

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disabled, migrants and other disadvantaged persons in such fields as health, special education, and housing and related social services. Because of its concern with these issues, IFS participated in both the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development.

The following statement is directed primarily to relating IFS experience in operating and evaluating social programmes such as those agreed upon at the two conferences and described in their reports to the Economic and Social Council. The first steps taken to implement the decisions of the International Conference on Population and Development and the first consideration of the commitments of the World Summit for Social Development are the subject of item 3 of the Council's agenda. In both cases we welcome the many references to the role of non-governmental organizations as partners in planning, operating and implementing the follow-up of the decisions of these conferences as well as the World Summit for Children. However the lack of specifity as to how non-governmental organizations can participate at each of the levels (international, regional, national and community) leads us to suggest that a practical and analytical study be made of the existing experience of many non-governmental organizations as well as that of sample intergovernmental bodies in order to prepare models and guidelines for use in developing, operating, monitoring and evaluating procedures for the follow-up of the conference decisions. Many appropriate procedures are already being developed and reported upon by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), but even here clarification is needed as to how non-governmental organizations can best participate. IFS experience indicates that it should be on the basis of formal contracts with non-governmental organizations (individual or coalition) to undertake specified social service activities. IFS would like to be included in the formulation and implementation of studies carried out at the international, national and community levels.

IFS has long experience in dealing with migration and refugees issues, since many of its members' settlements were originally established to assist refugees and migrants, and it continues to emphasize their concerns. It has been very critical of the various migration and refugee provisions that appear in both the Cairo and Copenhagen documents since they tend to ignore the human aspects and needs of displaced people, whatever the cause of displacement. It therefore strongly urges acceptance of the proposal to convene a special conference on migration and development and urges that such a meeting be given a mandate to bring greater human security to migrants, refugees, displaced persons and their families.